

Message Text

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APPROVED BY EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT

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EUR - MR. HARTMAN(SUBS)

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SUBJECT: NIKOLA TESLA COMMEMORATION: EXCHANGE OF
PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

1. AT THE TESLA STATUE DEDICATION JULY 23 AT NIAGARA
FALLS DR. IVO MARGAN, HEAD OF THE YUGOSLAV DELEGATION,
READ A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT TITO. FRANK ZARB IN HIS
SPEECH ACCEPTING THE STATUE READ A SIMILAR MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT FORD. THE TEXTS FOLLOW:

2. PRESIDENT TITO'S MESSAGE:

--- ON THE OCCASION OF THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH
OF NIKOLA TESLA, WHICH SYMBOLICALLY COINCIDES WITH THE
BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
I WISH TO CONVEY MY MOST CORDIAL GREETING TO THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE, TO PRESIDENT FORD AND, PARTICULARLY, TO ALL U.S.
CITIZENS OF YUGOSLAV DESCENT WHO HAVE FOUND THEIR NEW
HOMELAND THERE.

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--- THE THOUGHT AND THE WORK OF NIKOLA TESLA HAVE BEEN
BUILT INTO THE GROUNDWORKS OF CONTEMPORARY CIVILIZATION
AND HUMAN PROGRESS AND ARE OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE FOR
ALL MANKIND. HIS WORK STANDS ALSO AS A SYMBOL OF THE

CONTRIBUTION BY NUMEROUS MEN AND WOMEN OF YUGOSLAV ORIGIN
TO THE IDEALS OF FREEDOM, INDEPENDENCE, EQUALITY AND
PROGRESS, ON WHICH THE CREATION OF THE UNITED STATES HAS
BEEN BASED, AND WHO HAVE BEEN BUILDING AT THE SAME TIME
SOLID BRIDGES OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES AND
COUNTRIES.

--- WE, FOR OUR PART, WILL DO OUR UTMOST TO MAINTAIN THE
UNDERSTANDING AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND THE
UNITED STATES. IN THIS REGARD, I HIGHLY VALUE MY MEETINGS
WITH PRESIDENT FORD IN HELSINKI AND BEOGRAD, WHICH HAVE
REMAINED IN MY PLEASANT MEMORY.

--- I AM CONVINCED THAT THE CELEBRATIONS OF THE 200TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND 120TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF NIKOLA TESLA WILL GIVE AN
IMPETUS TO THE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES
AND CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE, SECURITY AND PROGRESS IN THE
WORLD.

3. PRESIDENT FORD'S MESSAGE:

I SEND MY WARMEST GREETINGS TO ALL THOSE WHO ATTEND THE
DEDICATION CEREMONIES OF THE NIKOLA TESLA STATUE.

THIS SPLENDID BICENTENNIAL GIFT TO THE UNITED STATES FROM
THE YUGOSLAV PEOPLE IS A FITTING TRIBUTE TO A MAN OF
ADMIRABLE TECHNICAL SKILL AND SOCIAL VISION. HIS CONTRI-
BUTION TO MODERN COMMUNICATIONS PROUDLY REPRESENTS THE
SPIRIT OF HARD WORK AND ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT HAS CHARAC-
TERIZED THE WIDER CONTRIBUTION TO THIS COUNTRY BY CITIZENS
OF YUGOSLAV DESCENT.

AS A NATION OF MANY NATIONS, WE ARE ESPECIALLY MINDFUL
DURING OUR TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE OF OUR
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UNIQUE TIES TO OTHER LANDS. IT IS MOST APPROPRIATE THAT
THE PEOPLE OF YUGOSLAVIA HAVE CHOSEN TO PAY TRIBUTE TO
OUR BICENTENNIAL BY HONORING A YUGOSLAV- ERICAN WHOSE
DISCOVERIES IN THE COMMUNICATIONS FIELD DID SO MUCH TO
ADVANCE THE UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION WE ENJOY TODAY
WITH OUR ANCESTRAL HOMELANDS.

NIKOLA TESLA DID NOT LIVE TO SEE THE VAST COMMUNICATIONS

NETWORK WHICH UNITES THE MODERN WORLD, BUT ITS FOUNDATIONS
REST GREATLY ON HIS DISCOVERIES. ON THIS OCCASION I
WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN IN HONORING THIS

DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN INVENTOR WHOSE CELEBRATED ACHIEVE-
MENTS ARE SUCH AN ENDURING CREDIT TO HIS NATIVE YUGOSLAVIA.
GERALD R. FORD KISSINGER

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